Claims:

20

35

273100

1. for continuously preparing higher A process (meth)acrylic esters (C) by transesterifying methyl (meth) acrylate (A) with higher alcohols (B) 5 in the presence of a catalyst or catalyst mixture, characterized in that the bottom effluent of the vacuum evaporation stage (6) is divided and is fed in part to the 10 reaction apparatus (1).

- 26 -

- continuously preparing 2. process for (meth)acrylic esters (C) by transesterifying methyl (meth)acrylate (A) with higher alcohols (B) in the presence of a catalyst or catalyst mixture, 15 characterized in that the bottom effluent from the film evaporator (5) is divided and is fed in part to the reaction apparatus (1).
- for continuously preparing higher 3. process (meth)acrylic esters (C) by transesterifying methyl (meth) acrylate (A) with higher alcohols (B) in the presence of a catalyst or catalyst mixture, characterized in that 25 the bottom effluent from the film evaporator (5) is divided and is fed in part to the reaction apparatus (1) and in that the bottom effluent of the vacuum evaporation stage (6) is divided and is fed to the reaction apparatus (1). 30
 - The process according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, 4. characterized in that the alcohols used are n-butanol, isobutanol or 2ethylhexanol.
 - 5. The process according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, characterized in that

the catalyst used is a homogeneous catalyst.

- 6. The process according to Claim 5, characterized in that the catalyst used is the titanate of the alcohol (B).
- 7. The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that 1 95% by weight of the bottom effluent from the
- 1 95% by weight of the bottom effluent from the vacuum evaporation stage (6) is fed to the reaction apparatus.
- 8. The process according to Claim 7,

 15 characterized in that

 40 90% by weight of the bottom effluent from the vacuum evaporation stage (6) is fed to the reaction apparatus (1).
- 20 9. The process according to Claim 8, characterized in that 60 85% by weight of the bottom effluent from the vacuum evaporation stage (6) is fed to the reaction apparatus (1).
- 10. The process according to Claim 2, characterized in that 1 95% by weight of the bottom effluent from the film evaporator (5) is fed to the reaction apparatus (1).
- 11. The process according to Claim 10, characterized in that 40 90% by weight of the bottom effluent from the film evaporator (5) is fed to the reaction apparatus (1).
 - 12. The process according to Claim 11, characterized in that

25

60 - 85% by weight of the bottom effluent from the film evaporator (5) is fed to the reaction apparatus (1).

13. The process according to Claim 3, characterized in that
1 - 95% by weight of the sum of the bottom effluents from the film evaporator (5) and from the vacuum evaporation stage (6) is fed to the

reaction apparatus (1).

10

- 14. The process according to Claim 13, characterized in that 40 90% of the sum of the bottom effluents from the film evaporator (5) and from the vacuum evaporation stage (6) is fed to the reaction apparatus (1).
- 15. The process according to Claim 14,
 20 characterized in that
 60 85% by weight of the sum of the bottom
 effluents from the film evaporator (5) and from
 the vacuum evaporation stage (6) is fed to the
 reaction apparatus (1).